

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN



A N N U A L R E P O R T

for

T H E Y E A R 1947

of

T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R

of

H E A L T H .

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1947.

To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Ladies & Gentlemen,

As this will presumably be my last Annual Report to you as your M.O.H, I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for their invariable courtesy and consideration to me.

Thanks are due also to my fellow officials for their frequent help and advice. I trust that in the years to come, with all their changes, this Ancient Borough will be able to retain its individuality.

SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I have really nothing to add to what I wrote in my last report under this head. I am glad to see that some work has been started on The Green and hope it will not be long before Penryn has a Bowling Green.

The problem of the "Chronic Sick" has become even more difficult and, with ever increasing demands on hospital beds problems have continued to arise which have given considerable worry and anxiety to those concerned. On the credit side can be put the admirable Home Help Scheme for which this Authority did the pioneering work, and of whose results they may be justly proud.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.	721.
Inhabited Houses, (end of 1946).	1,115.
Rateable Value.	£18,516-10-0.
Product of one penny rate.	£70- 0-8.

Vital Statistics.

Population (estimated). 3,638.

	M.	F.	Total.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population
<u>Live Births.</u>				24.1
Legitimate	30.	52.	82.	
Illegitimate	4.	2.	6.	
<u>Still Births.</u>	3.	0.	3.	Rate per 1,000 births 32.9
<u>Deaths.</u>	26.	31.	57.	Death-rate per 1,000 15.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. nil.
2. Other causes. nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :-

Legitimate. . . 3.	Total. . . 3.
Illegitimate. . . 0.	

All infants per 1,000 live births.	34.1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	11.
. Measles (all ages).	nil.
. Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil.
. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	nil.

The birth-rate is appreciably higher than last year and is well above that for England & Wales for which the figure is 20.5

The death-rate is also above that for England & Wales for which the figure is 12.0

Cardiovascular diseases accounted for the highest number of deaths - 14 in all.

Cancer ranked second with 11 and tuberculosis was responsible for only 2.

The Infant Mortality rate is less than half that for last year and may be considered satisfactory.

We can again feel satisfaction at the absence of any deaths from puerperal causes.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

M.O.H. J.N.L.Blamey, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.(Oxon). (Part time).
Public Vaccinator.

Sanitary Inspector. For the first part of the year Mr.A.A.Reid.,
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.N.I.S.E.,
For the latter part of the year Mr.K.R.Blackmore., R.S.I
certificate. S.I., certificate (Joint Board).

Once again there has been a change of S.I's during the year and I need not enlarge again on the difficulties that this entails.

The work of the Health Visitor and of the Infant Welfare Centre has again been of great value and I have been impressed more than once by the high standard of health and physique of the great majority of infants and young children attending the Clinics. This, I feel sure, is largely due to careful supervision and improved knowledge of hygiene on the part of parents.

There are now a large number of Clinics provided by the County Council for various purposes, such as Orthopaedic, Ear Nose & Throat, Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases etc. These are all held at Falmouth Weekly and are well patronised.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

In accordance with Statutory requirements, I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st. December 1947.

It should here be recorded that Mr. A. A. Reid, my predecessor, terminated his appointment on 4th: August 1947, and that the post was vacant until the 13th: October 1947, when I commenced duty.

Water Supply.

The large majority of the houses in the Borough are supplied from the main piped supply of the Falmouth Corporation Waterworks. The supply has been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year.

During the year Townsend House, which was mentioned in last year's report, has been connected to the main supply, and this corporate property has now a satisfactory supply of water.

The four houses owned by the Council at Bissom continue to obtain their supply from a well, although there is a water main in the highway in close proximity to the houses. It is understood that this main, at present, is the property of the Truro Rural District Council, and apparently the Falmouth Waterworks are precluded from giving this Council a supply for the Bissom houses. The advantages of a piped supply to these houses are sufficient recommendation for the Council to pursue the matter further.

SEWAGE.

The sewage of the Borough continues, by devious means, to be discharged into the tidal waters of the Penryn River.

The sewers at Summercourt and in Commercial Road have given trouble during the year, due to the very flat gradients at these points, and the consequent silting-up of the pipes. The surcharge of the sewers at high tide and the general high level of the mud are factors which operate to a disadvantage in these cases. The scraping and cleaning of these particular sewers has been carried out when required, but the operation was found to be difficult in view of the lack of manholes, particularly in the Summercourt area. New manholes have been constructed which makes the routine inspections and cleansing of the sewers more practical.

The proposed connection of the sewer from the Saracen Estate into the St Thomas' Street sewer should receive careful consideration of the Council with a view to providing a final sewer in the Summercourt area at a better level and gradient than exists at present.

The defective drainage of houses into an old stone culvert at the foot of Church Hill necessitated the laying of a length of new 9" sewer at the early part of the year, and the collapse of the same culvert at a higher level has necessitated the extension of the new 9" sewer to a point in the Hill above the same houses to receive the drainage from The Vicarage. Arrangements for carrying out this work were made at the end of the year.

In view of the ultimate necessity of pumping the sewage to a treatment works, the Council is advised to consider what policy is to be adopted regarding the disposal of surface water from roads, and rain water from the roofs of buildings, which now enters the sewers.

Housing Act 1936, Public Health Act 1936.

Houses have been inspected upon complaint and informal notices served where required, the majority of which have been complied with, but owners who have been willing to co-operate have complained of the difficulties in getting the work carried out due to the continued shortage of materials and labour.

The number of inspections made were. . .	58.
Informal Notices served.	44.
Statutory Notices.	6.
Statutory Notices complied with. . . .	4.

There still remain a large number of houses, which through sanitary defects and general disrepair, fall well below a reasonable standard of housing accommodation, and where in some of these cases representation has been made to the owners to carry out such repairs, the owners have replied that the majority of the disrepair is attributable to war damage, for which they have made the necessary claims, but have been unable to bring the matter to a final conclusion. In a number of instances the owners complain that they are unable to effect the repairs because the majority of the labour force available in the town is employed on the erection of new Council houses. In some instances it has been proved that orders for repair works have been given and are outstanding for a period exceeding two years. In order to clarify the position I have discussed with the Builders these outstanding orders for work, and have been informed that in certain cases the owners of the properties are financially unable to have the work carried out, it being stressed that the war damage is now only a part of the total disrepair of the property which has resulted from the delay in dealing with the actual war damage. The neglect in carrying out these repairs will very shortly render the properties incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense, and the properties will have to be dealt with by demolition as individual unfit houses, or by clearance area procedure. The successful re-housing of the inhabitants can only be obtained by the erection of further houses, of which at least 30 to 40 are required.

In addition to the houses mentioned above, of which some form a part, there exist in the St Thomas' Street/Summercourt/Bohill area housing conditions caused by sanitary defects, disrepair and bad arrangement, which should not be tolerated any longer and be dealt with either by way of the Housing Act 1936, or The Town & Country Planning Act of 1944. In either case it will be necessary to provide accommodation for the re-location of the population in this area, but the absence of any details regarding the 1948 building programme prevents one being able to make any really constructive suggestions.

During the year licences to the value of £2,821 were granted in respect of the repair of war damage to 23 properties.

Meat and other Foods.

During the year the usual inspections of meat and other foods have been carried out in the district, and the following weights of foodstuffs have been condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

Sugar	-	28 lbs.	Pickles & Sauce	-	45 lbs.
Tinned Milk	-	36 "	Fruit Sauces	-	18 "
Tinned Fruit	-	110 "	Tinned Vegetables	} 4½ "	
Dried Fruit	-	25 "	Tinned Fish	-	29½ "
Tinned Meats	-	4½ "	Boxed Fish	-	392 "

It might be noted that by far the greatest cause of foodstuffs being condemned has been the broken and badly damaged cans due to inconsiderate handling of the articles in bulk.

Bakehouses.

The three Bakehouses have been inspected and found to be kept in a generally satisfactory condition.

The lavatory accommodation provided in one case was found to require attention and re-arrangement, the owner having expressed his willingness to carry out this work at the earliest possible opportunity.

Milk and Dairies.

There are 12 registered Cow Keepers in the district, whose premises have been found to be kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness, although there are still cases where the premises fall short of the required standard.

There are 7 Dairies in the district, from which milk is retailed to consumers, which have been inspected & found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

There is one pasteurising plant under licence from which samples have been regularly taken and proved satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

There are 6 premises registered for sale of ice cream, in 4 of which ice cream is manufactured, and in the other 2 cases ice cream of a proprietary brand is stored and sold.

Of 5 samples taken during the season, 2 were of Provisional Grade I and 3 were of Provisional Grade II.

Refuse Collection.

The condition mentioned in last year's report of dustbins has improved, but there are still too many make-shift dustbins in use which not only are undesirable from a public health point of view, but are more difficult and therefore more costly to handle in the course of collection. The responsibility of landlords to provide a proper dustbin still does not seem to be fully understood.

The control of the disposal of refuse, is a matter which has already been reported upon to the Council, and it is hoped that more suitable comments will be possible in next year's report.

In connection with refuse collection, it would appear relevant to mention the amounts and value of salvage collected during the year.

	<u>Amount</u>			<u>Value.</u>
	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	
Waste Paper.	25.	17.	2.	£168.
Bones.		11.	1.	3.
Rags		2.	3.	2.
String.		1.	-	$\frac{1}{2}$

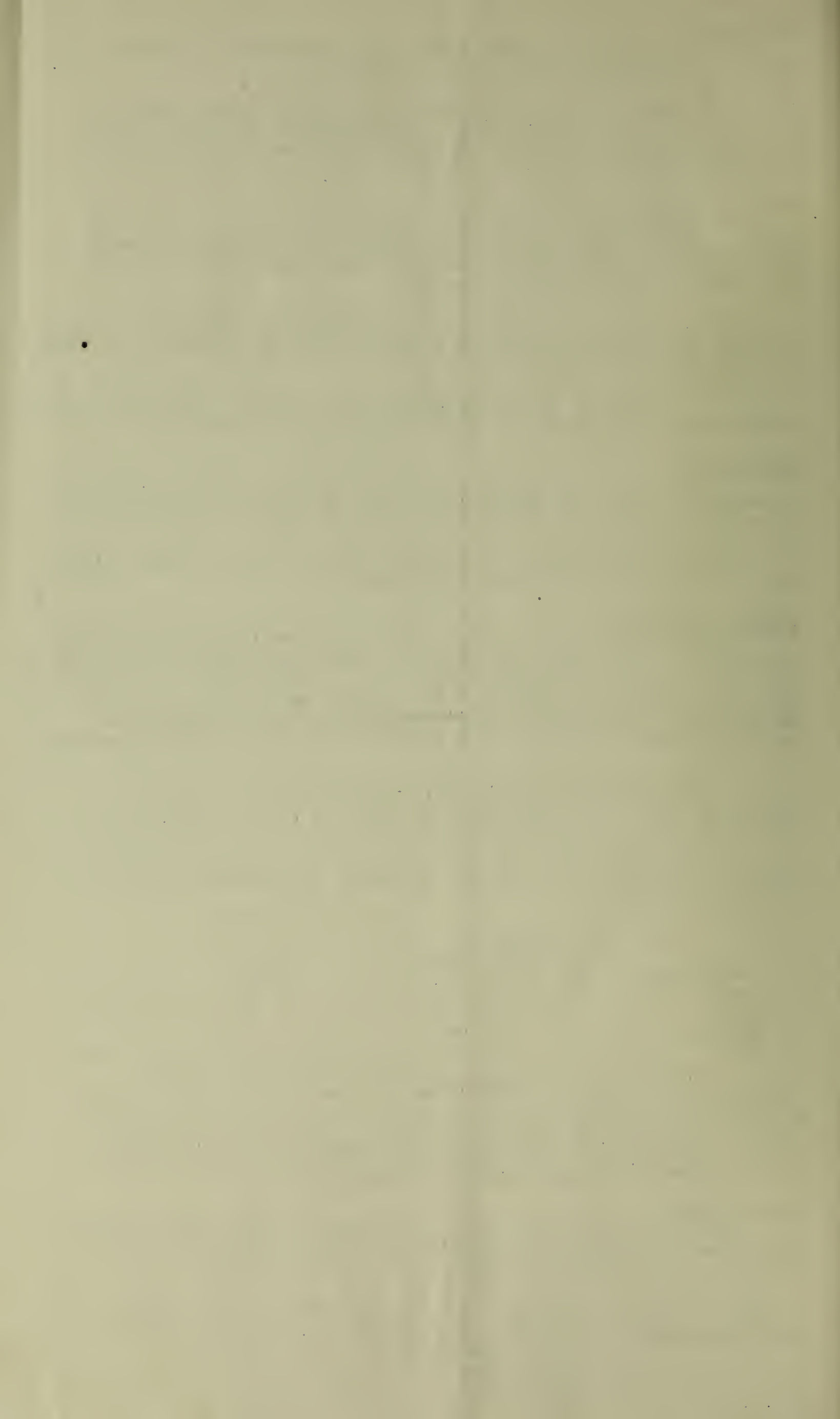
It will be noted that the total of the waste paper collection is below the recommended figure of one ton per 1,000 population per month, and it may well be said that additional salvage reclaimed by this Borough would assist to a degree in providing some of the materials necessary for the new building already commented upon elsewhere in this report.

Rodent Control.

This work has been continued during the year, and it would appear from the number of complaints now received that the rat population is being controlled.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made is 2026.

<u>Premises treated.</u>	Dwellings & Gardens.	129.
	Factory Premises.	15.
	Refuse Dump.	1.
	Piggeries.	2.
	Leat.	1.
	Sea Walls.	2.



Water Supply.

Almost entirely mains supply from Falmouth Corporation Water Undertaking. This has proved satisfactory in quality and quantity and in spite of an exceptionally dry summer, there were, as far as I know no cuts.

I append one analysis selected at random from the many received, showing that the supply has maintained its high standard of safety.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following notifications were received :-

Scarlet Fever.	5.
Pneumonia.	6.
Whooping Cough	11.

This indicates a very satisfactory year as regard infectious illness. The Scarlet Fevers were all mild cases and all nursed at home, with one exception- This, owing to special home circumstances, was sent to Isolation Hospital.

There was, of course, a good deal more Whooping Cough than appears in these figures. This is a complaint, which, for one reason or another, frequently escapes detection and notification.

It will be seen that we had no diphtheria. In this connection I may remark that constant sessions for diphtheria immunization and re-immunizing were held and very few children now escape the net !.

Ambulance Services have been entirely satisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year I received the following notifications :-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>
2. Males aged 35 and 22.	1 Female aged 34
1 Female aged 16	

The Clinic at Falmouth has been a great benefit, as has the after care and general supervision of these cases by the County Tuberculosis Officer and his Staff.

All contacts of cases are also kept under careful supervision.

Notification has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLANEY.

June 1948.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
(Thresh, Beale & Suckling).
60, Victoria Street., S.W.1.

Roy.C.Hoather, B.Sc., Ph.D
F.R.I.C., M.R.San.I. Telephone: VICTORIA 5838/9
Medical Director: G.J.Laws, B.A. Telegrams: SPOROGENES
M.F., B.Chir., D.F.H. Phone, LONDON.

Ref: C/EW/39.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER from FALMOUTH CORPORATION WATERWORKS.

Labelled Tap in Low Level sampling house (Tallacks Store) Water in
Supply Taken by W.S.H.Brooks. Witness D.T.Anthony. Signed W.S.H.Brooks.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance bright with a very slight flocculent deposit of amorphous
mineral & organic debris together with a few chalk particles Diatoms
(Cyclotella) & a few chlorophyceae (Protooccus Dimorphococcus and
Tetrasporal) present. Turbid (Silica Scale) Less than 5.

Colour (Fazen) Faint yellow-brown 14. Odour nil.

Reaction pH Faint alkaline 8.7 Free Carbon Dioxide Absent.

Electric Conductivity at 20°C 185. Total Solids, dried at 180°C 125.

Chlorine in Chlorides 27 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 30.

Hardness Total 45 Carbonate (Temporary) 30 Non-carbonate (Permanent) 15.

Nitrogen in Nitrates 2.0 Nitrogens in Nitrites absent.

Free Ammonia 0.012 Oxygen absorbed in 4hrs at 27°C 1.7

Albuminoid Ammonia 0.12 Residual Chlorine absent.

Metals Iron 0.03 Other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual
chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

Number of Colonies) 1 day at 37°C 2 days at 37°C 3 days at 20°C
developing on Agar) 0 0 0
per cc. or ml. in)

Presumptive Coliform Reaction Present in -- Absent from 100 ml.

Bac. coll. Present in -- Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction Present in -- Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is reasonably clear & bright in appearance since it
carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is alkaline in
reaction but not unduly so, soft in character, contains no excess of
salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals
apart from a negligible trace of iron. It shows only a trace of colour,
is of fairly satisfactory organic quality & of a high standard of
bacterial purity.

The water is considered to be wholesome in character and suitable
for public supply purposes.

(Sgd) Gordon Miles.

For The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
(Thresh, Beale & Suokling).

66, Victoria Street, S.W.

Roy.C.Hoather, B.Sc., Ph.D

F.R.I.C., M.R.San.I

Medical Director, G.J.Laws, B.A.

M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Telephone: VICTORIA 5838/9.

Telegrams: SPOROGENES Phone London.

Ref EW/40

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER from FALMOUTH CORPORATION WATERWORKS

Labelled tap in High Level sampling house. Water in supply.

Taken by W.S.H.Brooks, Witness D.T.Anthony. Signed W.S.H.Brooks.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance bright with a very slight flocculent deposit of amorphous mineral and organic debris together with a few chalk particles.

Diatoms (cyclotella) & chlorophyceae (chiefly Dimorphococcus with a few Tetrasporal) present. Turbidity (Silica Scale) Less than 5

Colour (Hazen) Faint yellow-brown 12. Odour nil.

Reaction pH faint alkaline 8.6 Free Carbon Dioxide Absent,

Electric Conductivity at 20°C 180. Total Solids, dried at 180°C 120

Chlorine in Chlorides 27 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 25.

Hardness: Total 45. Carbonate (Temporary) 25 Non-carbonate (Permanent 20.

Nitrogen in Nitrates 2.6 Nitrogen in Nitrites Absent.

Free Ammonia 0.020 Oxygen absorbed in 4hrs at 27°C 1.15

Albuminoid Ammonia 0.11 Residual Chlorine 0.05

Metals Iron 0.03 Other metals absent.

Bacteriological Results.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml in	}	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
		0	0	60.

Presumptive Coliform Reaction Present in -- Absent from 100 ml.

Bact. coli. Present in -- Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction Present in -- Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is reasonably clear & bright in appearance since it carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is alkaline in reaction but not unduly so, soft in character, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It shows only a trace of colour, is of fairly satisfactory organic quality & of a high standard of bacterial purity.

The water is considered wholesome in character & suitable for public supply purposes.

(sgd) Gordon Miles

For The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

